

To the Stroud Urban District Council.

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Pursuant to the orders of the Local Government Board, I have again to make an Annual Report on the Sanitary state of your District and the action taken during the past year 1895, which has been marked by an unusually low rate of Zymotic Diseases, 1½ Cases only being registered and 1 Death, equal to a rate of .68 per 1000 of total Deaths and 0.09 per 1000 of Population. There has not been any Epidemic necessitating the closing of Schools.

I was called upon to visit, examine, and give evidence in two cases of Cruelty to Children causing unnecessary suffering and endangering the health.

The state of the Sewage Works was under the consideration of the Sanitary Committee and the County Analyst, Mr. G. Embrey, F.C.S., was called in to report on the state of things. After the inspection he sent in a report which I believe is now under the consideration of the Council. He advocates extension of filtering room, use of more chemicals, and removal of refuse heap by means of a Destructor.

On the 28th of September I reported to the Council that the Hospital Tent which was erected near the Workhouse more than a year ago was in a weather-worn state and unsafe for the reception of Patients should any require admission. By order it was removed and repaired, and has not yet been re-erected, public objections being made to each site fixed upon at the meetings of the Joint Hospital Committee. I am informed that a site has been arranged for a permanent structure, to which objection is also taken by the public. This is a matter of considerable importance now, when we have such a large number of Small Pox cases in an adjoining district. The very great expense incurred where there is no proper provision made, as in our last epidemic, when the scare added largely to the amount spent in providing for their treatment and other necessities.

At 10 p.m. September 26th the police notified me that forty-seven Hop Pickers were to arrive the following morning per rail from an infected place. All precautions were taken to meet train and isolate the carriages containing the suspects, in which I was assisted by Mr. Waller, L.R.C.P.,

The examination proved there was no affected person present, nor had they been in close proximity of the cases in the district they came from. Every arrangement was made in case of necessity to remove any to the Tent then in position by the Workhouse.

The Factory and Workshops Act, 1895, came into force the 1st of January this year, and directs that the supervision of those places be under the Sanitary Authorities of the Districts in which they exist.

A much-needed Institution has lately been established, "The Stroud District Nursing Association," which consists of trained Nurses doing a good work under the management of the Lady Superintendent and Lady Secretary. I have met with two or three of the Nurses attending on Infectious Cases who knew and discharged their duties thoroughly well, to the great benefit of those under their care.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Population estimated for increase to end of 1895 is about 10125.

During the year 254 Births have been registered, 129 Males and 125 Females, a rate of 25·8 per 1000 living.

145 Deaths were recorded, 79 Males and 66 Females, including 5 in Hospital and 14 in Workhouse, a rate of 14·4 per 1000.

For the Quarters of the Year the rates have been :—

First Quarter	...	...	...	...	19·24
Second	„	...	...	...	13· 8
Third	„	...	...	...	13· 2
Fourth	„	...	...	...	10. 4

Three of the above did not belong to this District, reducing the actual death-rate to 13·9 ; 2 in Hospital, one from London, one from Eastington, and one from Gloucester killed on railway.

For the 32 Provincial Towns the Birth and Death rates were 31·8 and 21·2 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

29 Deaths of Infants under one year were returned, a rate of 11·4 per cent. of Births.

CAUSES OF DEATHS AMONG INFANTS.

Whooping Cough	...	2	Teething	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	2	Deficient Vitality	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	6	Croup	...	...	1
Premature	...	5	Icterus	...	...	1
Inanition	...	8	Enteritis	...	...	2

For the 32 Provincial Towns the rate was 19·7 per cent.

59 persons died over 60 years of age, a rate of 5·87 of population and 40·6 per cent. of deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Bronchitis	...	12	Paralysis	...	...	5
Heart	...	8	Icterus	...	...	1
Injuries...	...	3	Natural Causes	...	...	2
Cancer	...	6	Apoplexy	...	...	3
Gastritis	...	1	Asthma	...	...	1
Brain	...	3	Imbecile	...	...	1
Age	...	9	Epilepsy	...	...	1
Uncertified	...	1	Prostatic	...	...	1
Kidney	...	1				—
						59
Phthisis	...	10	equal to	·98	per 1000 living	
Bronchitis	...	32	„	3·16	„	„
Heart	...	18	„	1·69	„	„
Cancer	...	10	„	·98	„	„

2 Uncertified Deaths were registered, a rate of 1·37 of total Deaths.

STATED CAUSES OF DEATH.

1 probably Bronchitis and Teething, age 14 months.

1 „ Heart Disease, age 67 years.

12 Inquests were held, including one of Natural Causes, probably in a fainting condition, consequent on Windy Spasms, age 62 years ; 2 in Workhouse ; 1 Accidentally Killed on Railway ; 2 Suicides ; the others requiring no special notice.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1 Death, 0·09 per 1000 persons living. 12 Cases were reported, 8 Scarlet Fever, 3 Erysipelas, 1 Diphtheria. Of the Scarlet Fever cases, 1 died, 18 months old. Two cases had no Medical Attendant.

DIPHTHERIA.

One Case was reported, and the cause was difficult to account for, the drainage and water supply being in order. The Medical Attendant informed me that the anti-toxin treatment was used with satisfactory results.

SCARLET FEVER.

8 Cases. Two came early in the year from an infected district in Scotland ; one sickened on arrival here, and one died.

ERYSIPELAS.

3 Cases of an Idiopathic character.

The Inspector has carefully carried out all directions as to fumigation, disinfection, and supervision of people and premises.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

5 Deaths : 3 Whooping Cough under two years, 2 Diarrhœa under one year of age.

Influenza was not prevalent, only 3 Cases reported in sick lists.

The Tables attached give in detail Births, Mortality, &c., and Infectious Cases. The slight increase in the Mortality for 1895 over that of the previous year may be accounted for by the larger number of Deaths (11) over 60 years and 5 more Infantile Deaths making up the difference.

The WATER SUPPLY of the Town remains of its usual good quality for dietetic purposes, the County Analyst's report giving much the same results as my own for twenty years past, with the exception that the Solids and Nitrates have increased lately.

I have chemically examined five samples of water, four of which gave evidence of pollution by defective drains, and one exposed to pollution by cattle.

RAINFALL for 1895, kindly supplied by W. Cowle, Esq., Park House, Stroud, about 270 feet above Sea Level :—

January	...	...	2·81 inches	July	...	...	3·00 inches
February	...	...	0·16 „	August	...	...	3·22 „
March	2·64 „	September...	·88 „
April	3·03 „	October	3·34 „
May	·53 „	November...	5·12 „
June	·71 „	December	2·26 „
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							27·70 „

I remain, your obedient Servant,

THOMAS PARTRIDGE, M.R.C.P.I.,

January 31st, 1896.

Medical Officer of Health.

ABSTRACT OF VISITS AND CASES FROM MEDICAL OFFICER'S JOURNAL.

Dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	8
Certificates	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Schools	..	...	...	...	1
Samples Water examined	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Certificates	...	...	...	...	4
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	4
Reports to Local Government Board	...	...	...	...	4
„ Urban District Council	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to District	...	...	...	...	20
Cases of Illness visited as to Sanitary state :—Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	8
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Case suspected Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Examined Persons from Infected District	...	...	...	...	40
Attending Urban District Council	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ „ „ Committee	...	...	...	...	8
Letters and Post Cards	...	...	...	...	13
Visits Hospital Tent	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	23
„ Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	19
Investigation of supposed Typhoid	...	...	...	...	1
Cases of Cruelty to Children	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ with Committee and Mr. Embrey	...	...	...	...	1
Attending Enquiry by Mr. Codrington	...	...	...	...	1
Certificate Captain Still, <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	1
Houses in Unsanitary state	...	...	...	...	5
Consultations with Inspector	...	...	...	...	80

275

BIRTHS & DEATHS U.S.A. STROUD, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1895.

Total Births	...	...	254	Rate per 1000	...	25·8
Total Deaths	...	...	145	„ „	..	14·4
Zymotic Disease % of Deaths	...	...	·68	Per 1000 population	...	0·09
Deaths above 60 years	...	...	59			
Under 1 year	...	...	29			
Uncertified	...	...	2			
Inquests	...	...	12			
Violence	...	...	5			
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1			
Other causes	...	...	139			
IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—Hospital...			5			
Workhouse			14			

THE NEW COUNTY COUNCIL BYE-LAWS.

Copies of the new County Council bye-laws were distributed. Attention was drawn to bye-law 15, which provides that all vehicles must carry lights after dark.—The CHAIRMAN thought they would be of great service to the Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

THE DRAINAGE OF NAILSWORTH.

The Clerk read Dr. Partridge's annual report, which was a very lengthy one. The Chairman had sent the doctor a description of the district, which was included, and which gave a very good review of the place and surroundings. He also acknowledged his indebtedness to Mr Okey for a few remarks on the geology. "Three valleys starting from the edge of the Cotswold Hills meet in the town, and a wider valley then runs from the town to the junction of the main valley from Stroud, and thence onward into the Severn Valley. The town is situate a little to the south east of the centre of the parish, and is 200 feet above the sea level. The whole acreage of the district is a little over 1622, and the population is about 3,150. Three streams from the three smaller valleys unite in the town, and flow on down the larger valley (receiving on the way several small tributaries) as one stream which joins the Frome at Dudbridge, and thence runs on into the Severn at Framilode. The town is slowly but steadily growing, and business generally is in a healthy and energetic condition. Just at the junction of the district with that of Woodchester, the streams before mentioned are supplemented by water rising on Selsley Hill, 760 feet above the sea level, which is of a very pure character. The geological features are that the rocks are inferior oolite, and the formation at Nailsworth is of much the same character. 64 births were registered during the year, 32 males and 32 females, a rate of 20.3 per 1,000 living.

53 deaths were recorded for the same period, 23 males, 30 females, a rate of 16.8 per 1000, including 2 in the Stroud Workhouse.

Infantile mortality: 5 children died under one year of age, a rate of 7.8 per cent of total births. There are no special circumstances to mention in connection with them.

Zymotic diseases: The district has been unusually free from this class. Two cases of typhoid fever and one of erysipelas were reported to me under the Notification Act, and no death recorded. Both cases of typhoid are supposed to have originated from home. One a lady who had been visiting on the continent sickened a few days after returning, the other a youth, who is suspected of having imbibed the poison when away from home, probably from drinking polluted water. In neither case could the surroundings be made accountable. I examined the water supply, &c., and found them in order, and the drainage in one place needed slight improvement.

Inquests: Four were held, two deaths resulted from ordinary causes, and two injuries, one a scald and the other a suicide, and two deaths reported to coroner, no inquiry being considered necessary by him.

The water supply has been generally good and plentiful. Several houses are supplied from private springs, and the Chalford water is laid on to 112 houses in the town, 7 in Whorley, 94 in Watledge, a total of 123 premises supplied from this source, and since 1894 there has been some increase in the connections. During the year I have visited the district several times, and find that in Nailsworth the houses generally drain into the stream, that one from Nailsworth and Horsley receiving much from the houses, several of which have closets situated directly over the stream. The pond at the back of the new houses by Harris's mill gives ocular evidence. Both streams also receive refuse from manufactories and other business premises. The town itself is much improved, but the drainage has yet to be overcome. The situation of the place

renders it a difficult matter to treat. The present system of scavenging by collecting house refuse, &c., twice a week, is a great improvement on the past.

There were appended a summary of visits, altogether 40 in number, and of birth and death rates for the year and the last quarter. That for the year ending December 31st, 1895, was as follows:—Total births 64, rate per thousand 20.3; total deaths 53, rate per thousand 16.8; deaths above 60 years 32, under 1 year 5, uncertified 2; inquests 4; violence 2; other causes 51; influenza 1; cancer 2; two deaths in workhouse.


The report for the quarter ending December 31st, 1895 was:—Total births 11, rate per thousand 13.6; total deaths 15, rate per thousand 19.04; deaths above 60 years 10, under 1 year 2, uncertified 1, influenza 1, other causes 15.

OTHER REPORTS.

Mr John Hall, inspector of nuisances, also produced his annual report. The treasurer's book showed a balance of £242 16s 10d.

There was no other business of public interest.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "Harris, 10.1.96" and "The drainage of Nailsworth."



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SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR
DURING THE YEAR 1895.

No. of Premises inspected <i>re</i> Sanitary and Water arrangements	905
No. of Casual Inspections of Premises <i>re</i> Water Leakages and Repairs ...	...	932
No. of Re-inspections of Premises during work in progress under Notices served ...	...	206
No. of Notices served (all kinds) ...	...	223
No. of Notices complied with ...	...	201
No. of Notices outstanding ...	...	22
No. of Complaints of Nuisances received ...	...	16
No. of Samples of Water taken for Analysis...	...	13
No. of Schools inspected ...	...	5
No. of Workshops inspected ...	...	16
No. of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register ...	...	17
No. of Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds ...	...	50
No. of Inspections of Common Lodging-houses—By day, 69 ; by night, 14 ...	...	83
No. of Inspections of Bakehouses ...	...	35
No. of Inspections of Slaughter-houses ...	...	25
No. of Cases of Infectious Disease—Scarlatina ...	...	8
	Diphtheria ...	1
	Erysipelas ...	2
No. of Rooms disinfected ...	...	12
No. of Drains smoke-tested (all proved defective) ...	...	6
No. of Inspections of Sewage Works ...	...	81
No. of Premises inspected <i>re</i> Sale of Petroleum ...	...	5
No. of Samples of Petroleum tested ...	...	4
No. of Testings for Leaks in Watermains (night) ...	...	9
No. of Legal Proceedings taken ...	...	11
No. of Miscellaneous Inspections ...	...	202

(Signed) WALTER RIDLER,
Sanitary Inspector.

